TOKYOPOP

The Tarot Café™

SANG-SUN PARK

The Tarot Café

By

Sang-Sun Park

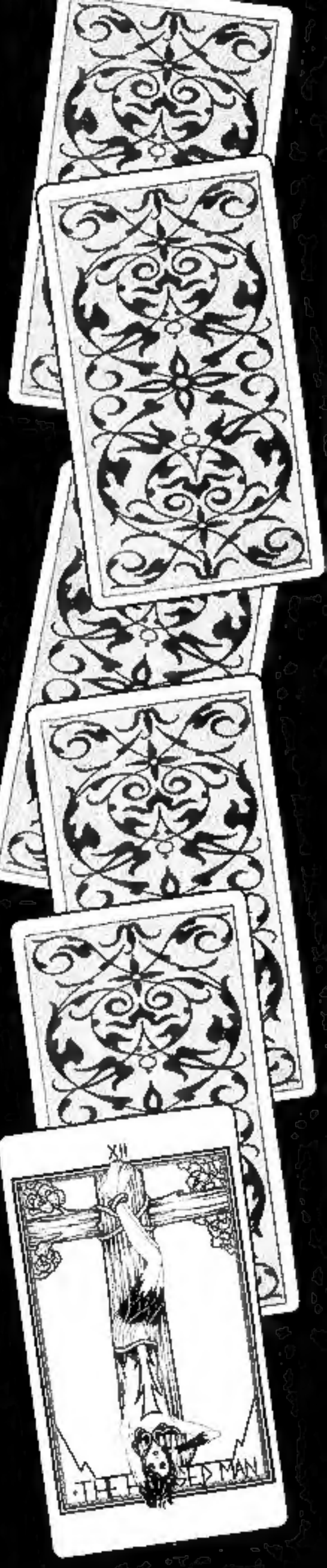
Volume 7

TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

Story so far...

A sultan who has fallen in love with a young slave... A student who drives away a lake fairy over doubt and jealousy... A dragon what seeks to avenge the death of a dear friend... These are a few of the supernatural beings that Pamela, owner of The Tarot Cafe, has welcomed through the doors of her mysterious establishment. But now Pamela must unveil the secrets to her own past and save the injured Belus in the process.



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End of the Journey ----------5

A LONG TIME AGO... A VERY LONG TIME INDEED, THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN WAS BEAUTIFUL AND PEACEFUL.

THE ABSOLUTE ONE AND THE ANGELS WHO WORSHIPPED HIM LIVED THERE HAPPILY.

BUT THERE WAS A CONSPIRACY, AND SOME WERE CAUGHT IN A WHIRLWIND OF CHAOS AGAINST THEIR WILLS.

MY BROTHER, SARIEL SAYS SHE NO LONGER LOVES YOU.

BUT...I CAN RETURN HER TO YOU IF YOU SO DESIRE.

WHAT'S YOUR CONDITION?

I HOPE YOU WILL AGREE WITH ME.

LUCIEL (WHO WAS ENVIOUS OF THE ABSOLUTE ONE) AND SOME OTHER ANGELS ROSE UP IN REBELLION...

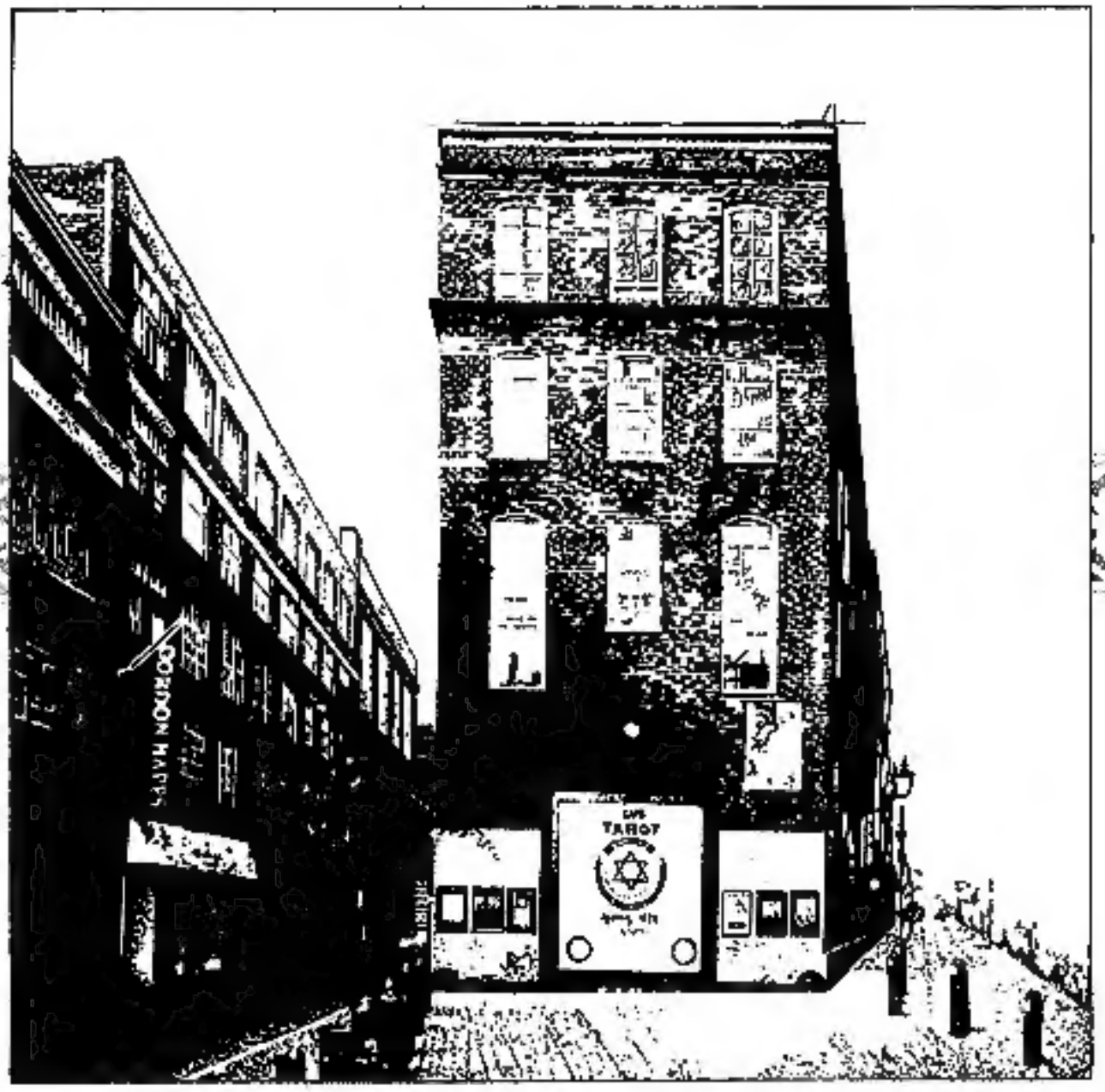
...AND ONE THIRD OF THE ANGEL POPULATION WAS BANISHED TO HELL.

ALONG WITH HIS OTHER CORRUPT FRIENDS, HIS BODY WAS CURSED.

AND THEN HE WANDERED THE EARTH LOOKING FOR THE GIRL.

Illustration from Golden Tarot of Klimt

MEANING OF THE CARD: Beginning of a journey, desire to improve, personal strength, charisma, ambition, bad judgment, coolness.



IF YOU'RE CURIOUS, COME IN AND SEE ME.

HA HA HA... IT'S TIMES LIKE THESE I'D LIKE SOME OF THAT COCOA AARON MAKES...

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Evil Flowers

WHO...?

I AM NEBIROS.

I WILL GUIDE YOU TO HELL. BELIAL IS THERE.

IT IS CALLED THE PANDEMONIUM.
IT IS WHERE THE WORLD'S FOULEST AND EVILEST RESIDE.
IS THIS BELIAL'S CASTLE? THE ONE I'M INVITED TO VISIT?

BUT YOU'RE A DEVIL YOURSELF. WHY ARE YOU HELPING ME?

REVENGE.

WHY ARE *YOU* BEING RECKLESS BY GOING THERE?

WHAT TYPE WOULD YOU LIKE?

THIS IS PARADISE. I CAN GIVE YOU WHATEVER YOU DESIRE.

I TH'NK I'D LIKE THE FIRST G R... AND...EH...THE FOURTH ONE TOO.

COME RIGHT TH'S WAY, CONGRESSMAN... HO HO HO.

I SEE YOU STILL HAVE A KNACK FOR SALES. AKRASIA.

MASTER BELIAL!! WHY...ARE YOU HERE?!!

I'M HERE FOR A FAVOR.

WHAT FAVOR COULD MASTER BELIAL ASK OF SUCH A LOWLY PERSON AS MYSELF?

THE WOMAN THAT I LOVE MOST IN THE WORLD WILL COME HERE.

HER NAME IS PAMELA. YOU ARE TO GUIDE HER TO THE PATH WITH UTMOST RESPECT AND KINDNESS.

EXIT

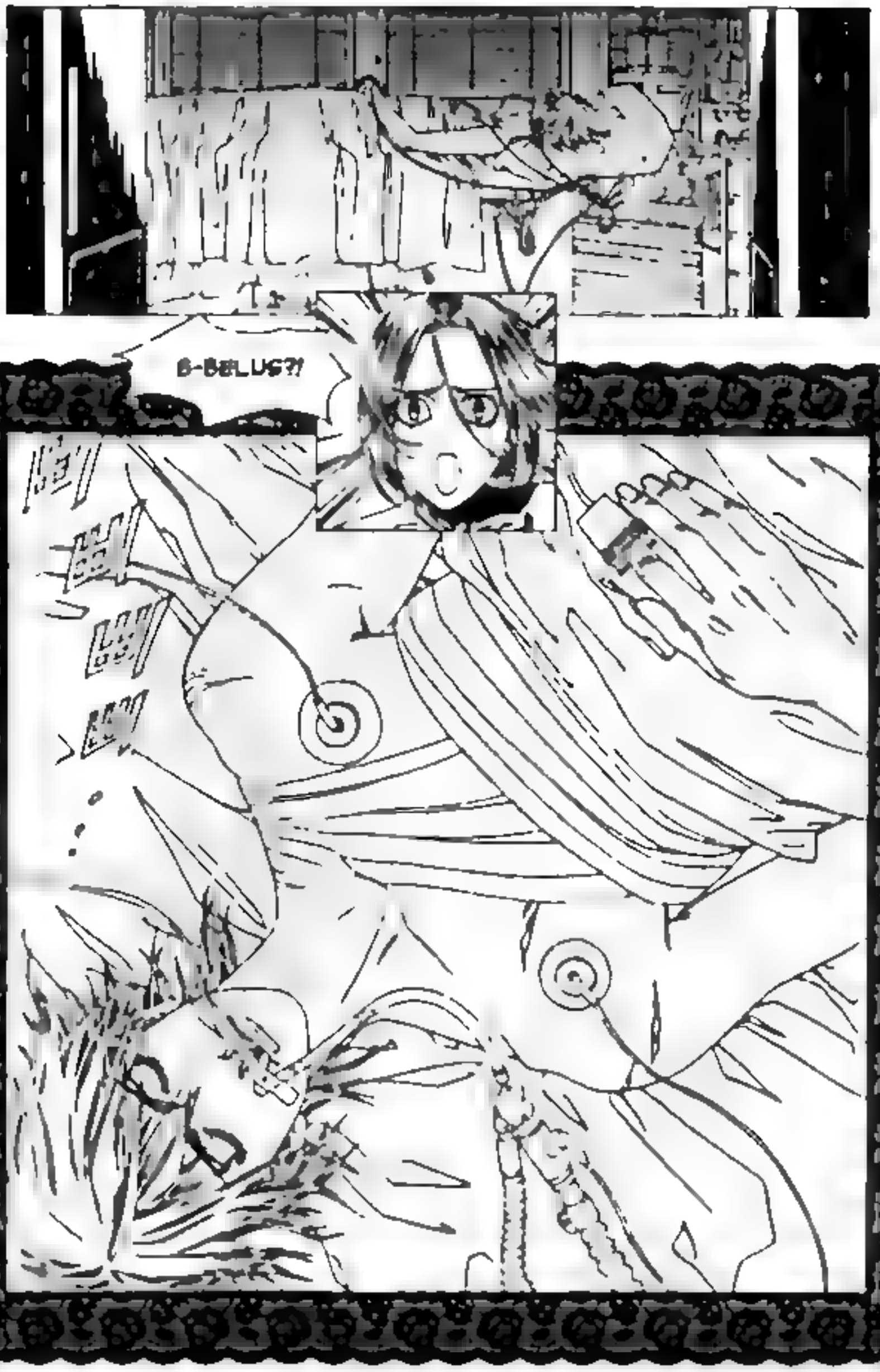
PAMELA, WHERE IS BELUS ANYWAY?

ISN'T HE USUALLY WITH YOJ...?

HOSPITAL

SERIOUS CAS ROOM

HE'S HERE.


B-BELUG?!

THIS IS THE REASON I WANT TO GO THERE.

BEFORE, I WANTED TO KNOW THE PAST BECAUSE I WAS OBSESSED WITH IT. NOW, I JUST WANT TO KNOW FOR THE FUTURE.

PFFT! IT'S A CORPSE.

WHAT...?

NOW THAT I KNOW YOUR REASON FOR WANTING TO GO, LET'S NOT WASTE ANY MORE TIME.

삐삐삐삐

SO THIS IS THE GATEWAY TO HELL?
A MANSION ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF LONDON?

HA HA... NOW I CAN BELIEVE IT.

NAUSEATING, DISGUSTING AND REVOLTING...

HELL IS NOT ANY ONE FIXED PLACE.

ANY REALITY THAT HUMANS LIVE IN COULD BECOME HELL.

WHAT'S THIS...? ARE THESE THINGS HUMAN?

THESE BASTARDS... THEY'RE SEEING OUR TRUE FORMS.

LET'S EAT THEM!!

FEEL
EVIL

WAIT, YOU'RE MASTER NEBIROS, THE ENEMY OF THE DEVIL'S ARMY, AREN'T YOU?

ALL OF YOU, LEAVE.

WELCOME. I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

MY BAB ES DIDN'T RECOGNIZE MY HONORED GJESTS. PLEASE FORGIVE THEM FOR THEIR M STAKES.

HOO HOO HOO. YOJ MUST BE THE ONE MASTER NEBIROS SEARCHED FOR SO DESPERATELY.

IT WOULD BE IN YOUR BEST INTEREST TO STOP TALKING.

YOU'RE...PAMELA? THE ONE MASTER BELIAL LOVES MOST IN THE WORLD?

Ha!

WHAT? LOVE...?

MASTER BELIAL INSTRUCTED ME TO BE ESPECIALLY KIND IN GUIDING YOU.

HERE, COME THIS WAY.

IS THIS IT? IS THIS THE ENTRANCE TO HELL?

PFFT.

I SEE YOU'RE AS CLUELESS AS EVER. THE ENTRANCE TO HELL ISN'T LIKE A SIMPLE ENTRANCE TO A BUILDING.

SO WHERE IS IT, THEN?

CAN'T YOU SEE? IT'S RIGHT HERE.

BUT YOU JUST SAID IT *WASN'T* HERE.

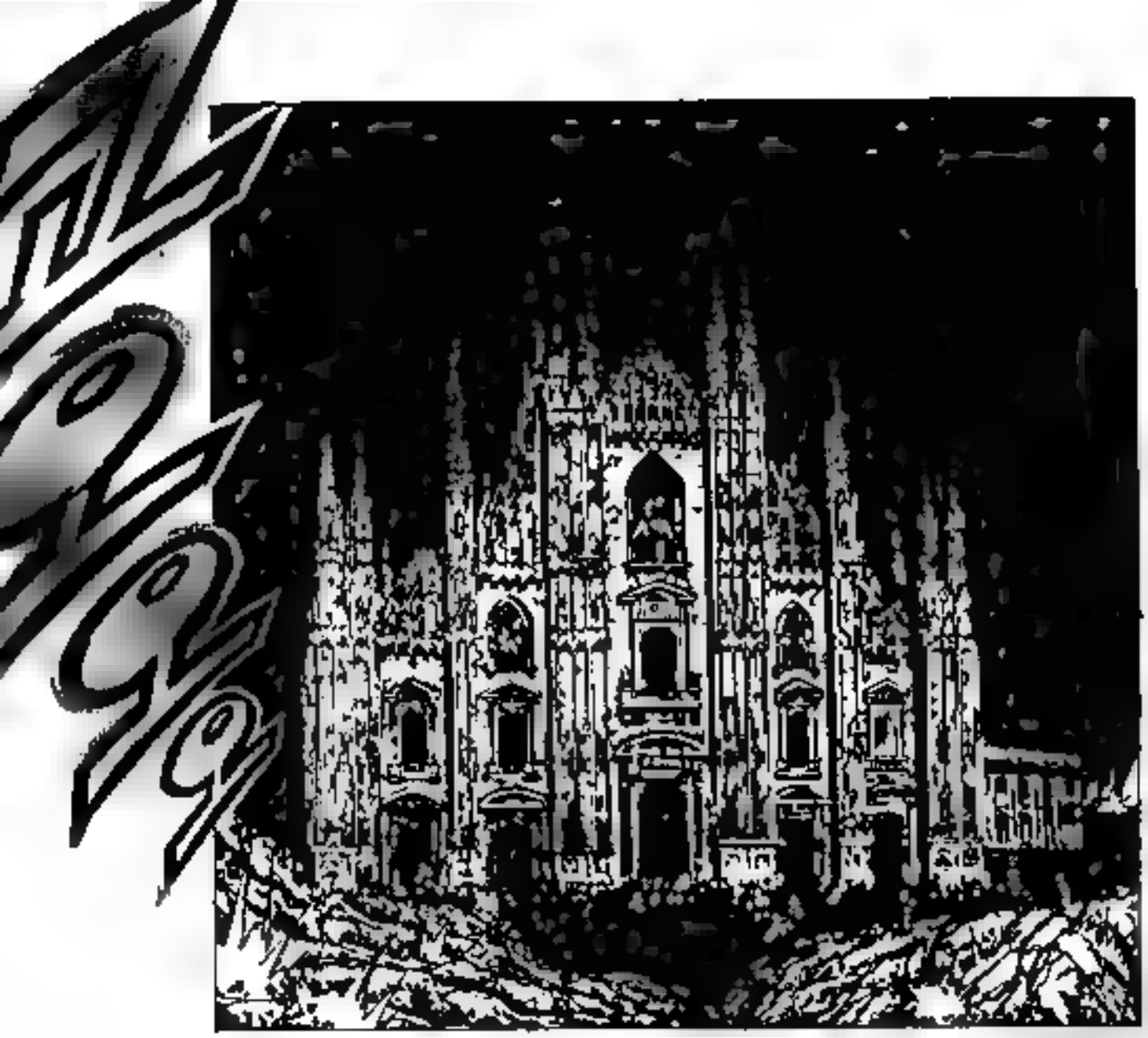
THIS PLACE ISN'T. *AKRASIA* S THE GATEWAY TO HELL.

WELL THEN, I HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR TRAVELS.

HOLD ON TO ME. I DON'T WANT YOU TO FALL.

KYAAA!

WHOA!



HA HA HA... ARE YOU FINALLY COMING, PAMELA?
THIS FUN LITTLE GAME IS ALMOST AT AN END

NNNGH...

Hee hee hee...

Har har har...

Hee hee hee...

Har har har...

WHAT...? WHAT ARE THESE THINGS?

har har har.

M-MOM...?

M-
MOM...?

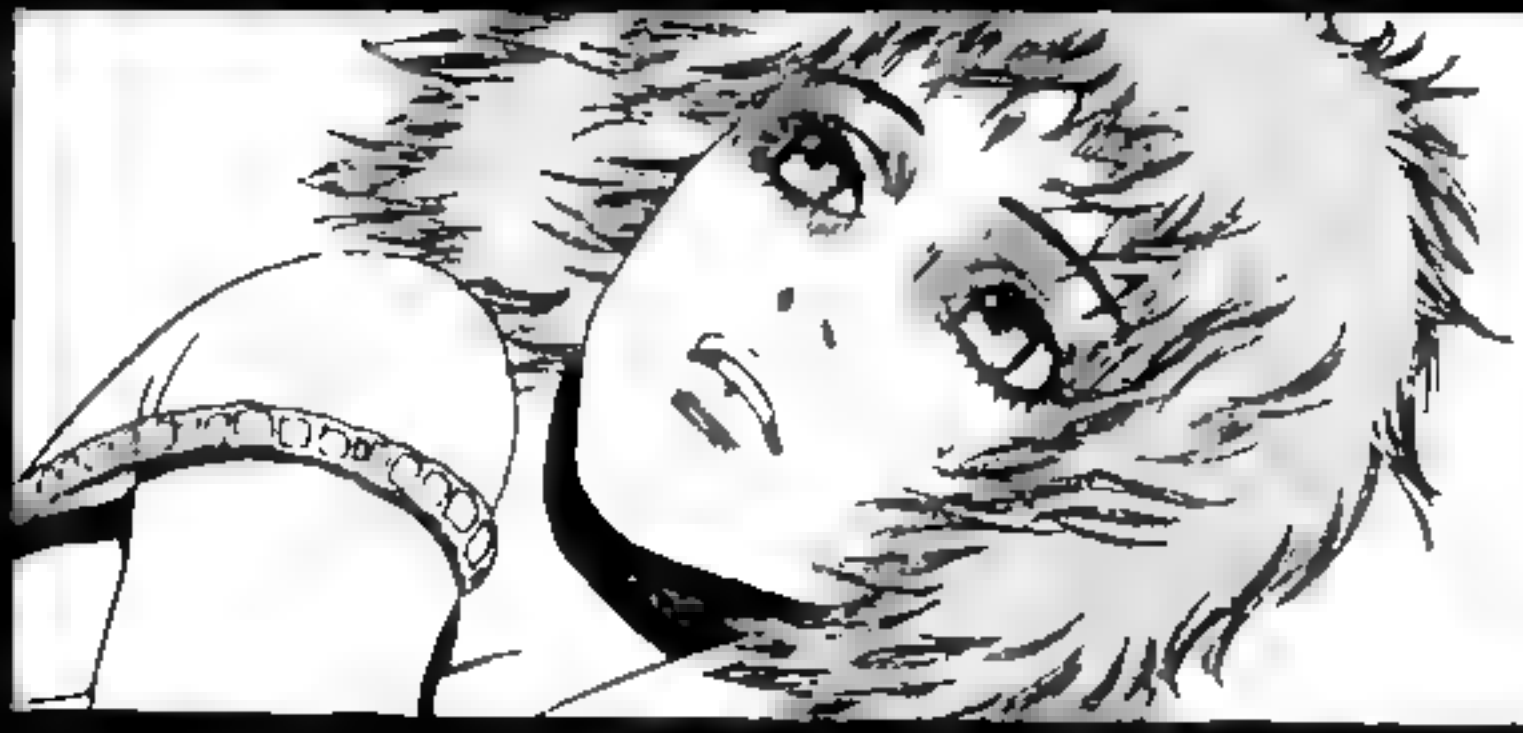
KEEEH...COME WITH US...

WITH US...

AH...M-MOM..

WAKE UP!!

KIYAAA!!



BE VERY CAREFUL.

THIS IS THE ENTRY HALL OF HELL.

IF YOU LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS NOW, YOU'LL WANDER AROUND HERE FOREVER.

ENTRY HALL OF HELL?

THOSE WHO COMMITTED SINS OF INDECISION RESIDE HERE.

THEY CAN NEITHER DIE NOR ENTER HELL. THEY CAN ONLY WANDER.

FINALLY-- THE RIVER ACHERON.

THE LOVERS
LOS ENAMORADOS
VI
DIE LIEBENDEN
DE GELIEFDEN

Hweeee...
THE WOMAN I LOVE MOST IN THE WORLD WILL COME THROUGH HERE.
SHE MUST PASS THIS PLACE TO ARRIVE AT MY PANDEMONIUM

HOO HOO HOO

JUST DO YOUR JOB.

IF YOU LAY A HAND ON PAMELA, YOU WON'T FIND ME VERY FUNNY

Flinch

FOR YOU, BELIAL, TO USE THE WORD "LOVE".. I'M INTRIGUED.

AND YOU WON'T FIND ME VERY FUNNY IF YOU PUT *ME* IN A FOUL MOOD AGAIN!

DAMMIT! I CAN'T SEE WHAT'S AHEAD OF ME BECAUSE OF THIS SANDSTORM!

?

MRRPH... WHERE ARE WE NOW?

THIS IS OUTSIDE THE CITY OF DIS.

THIS IS WHERE THOSE WHO COMMITTED SINS OF THE FLESH-- GLUTTONY, COVETOUSNESS, DEBAUCHERY--ARE PUNISHED.

HUH?

WHEN DID THE SANDSTORM STOP?

WHO'S THERE?!

...MOM?

IS THIS ANOTHER ILLUSION?

NO. THIS SEEMS LIKE ANOTHER SPECIAL CASE, AS WITH GRETCHEN AND FAUST.

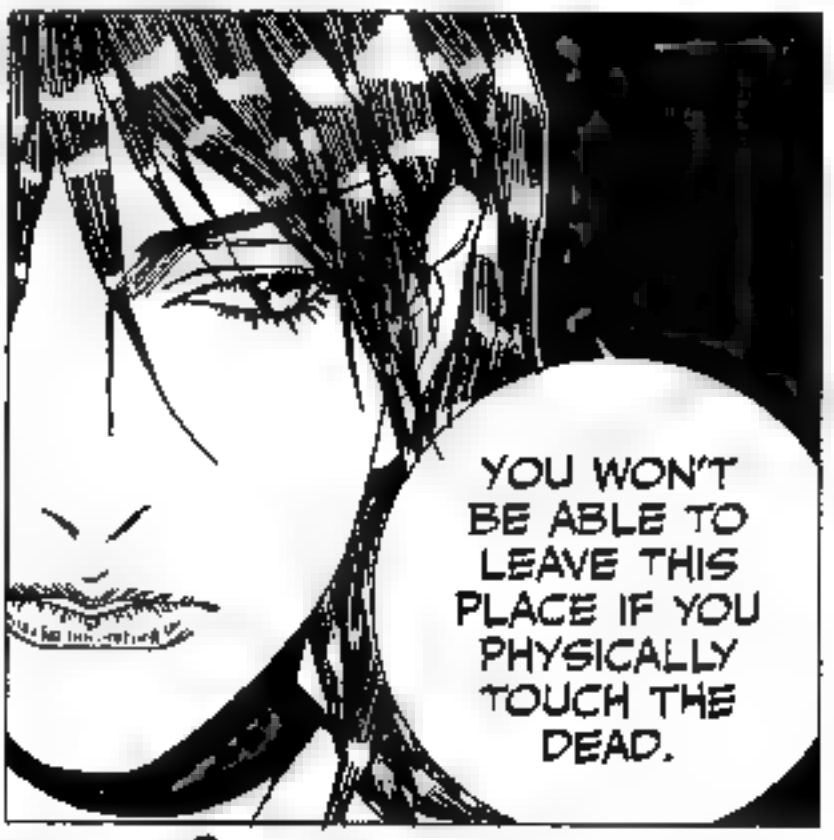
HM? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

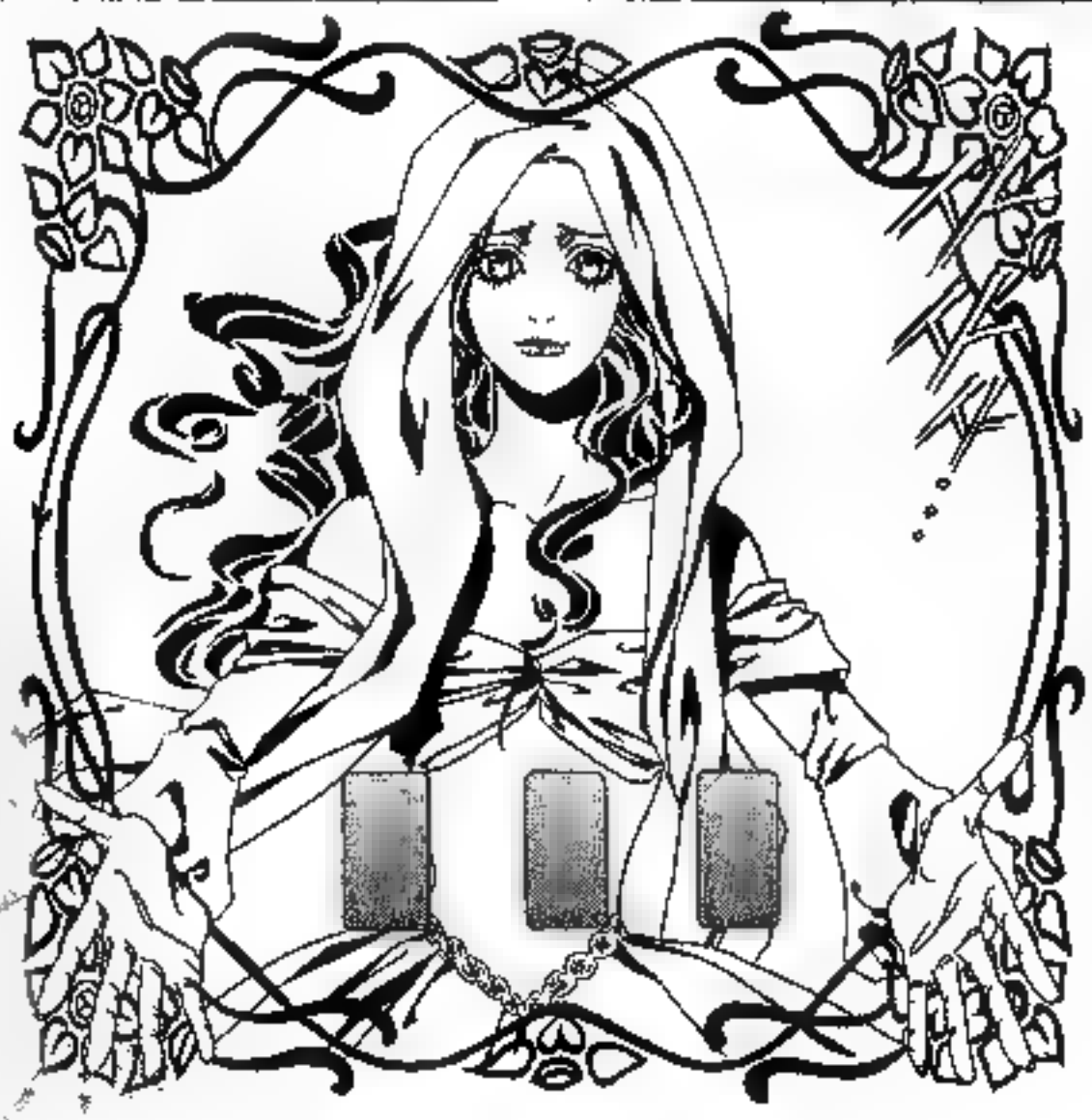
IF IT'S DONE FOR LOVE, SOMETIMES THE CONTRACT BETWEEN A HUMAN AND THE DEVIL BECOMES NULL AND VOID.

IF THAT'S TRUE, AND SHE'S NOT AN ILLUSION, THEN WHY IS MY MOM IN HELL?

PERHAPS SHE'S COME TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.

MOM?!!


YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO LEAVE THIS PLACE IF YOU PHYSICALLY TOUCH THE DEAD.



Please come and scan for us!!

We need raws for the folowing ***projects:***

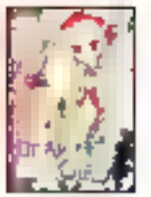
Forget About Love
We need volume 2 to 7

Don't Touch Me
We need volume 5

C-Blossom - Case 729
We need volume 2

Masca
We need volume 4 to 12
+ the 2 bonus volumes

The Queen's Knight
We need volume 12 to 17



Dear My Girls
We need volume 5 and 6

Evil Flowers *needs more* ***raw providers***

Please come join us at:

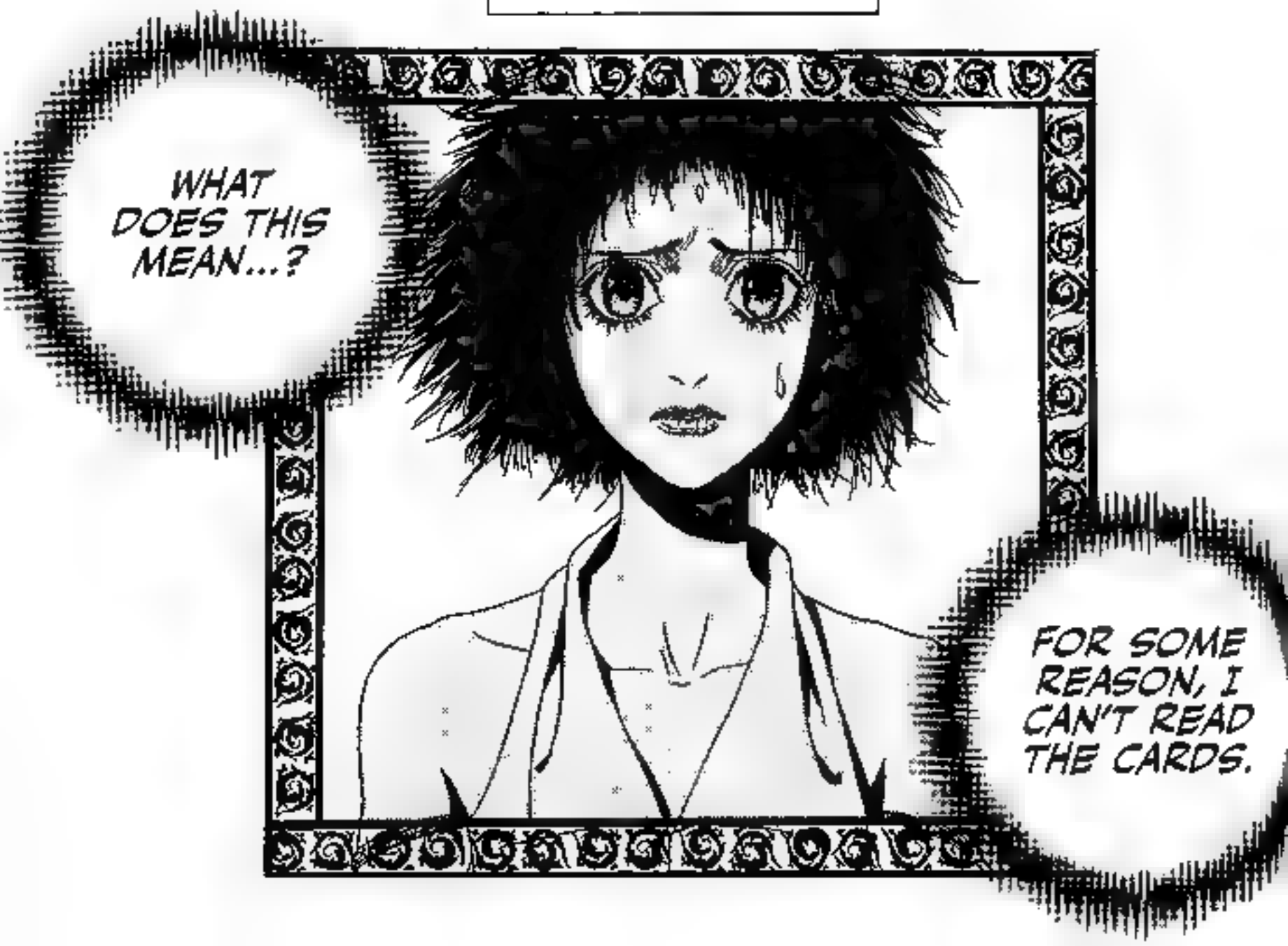
Forum: http://evilflowers.forumotion.com/

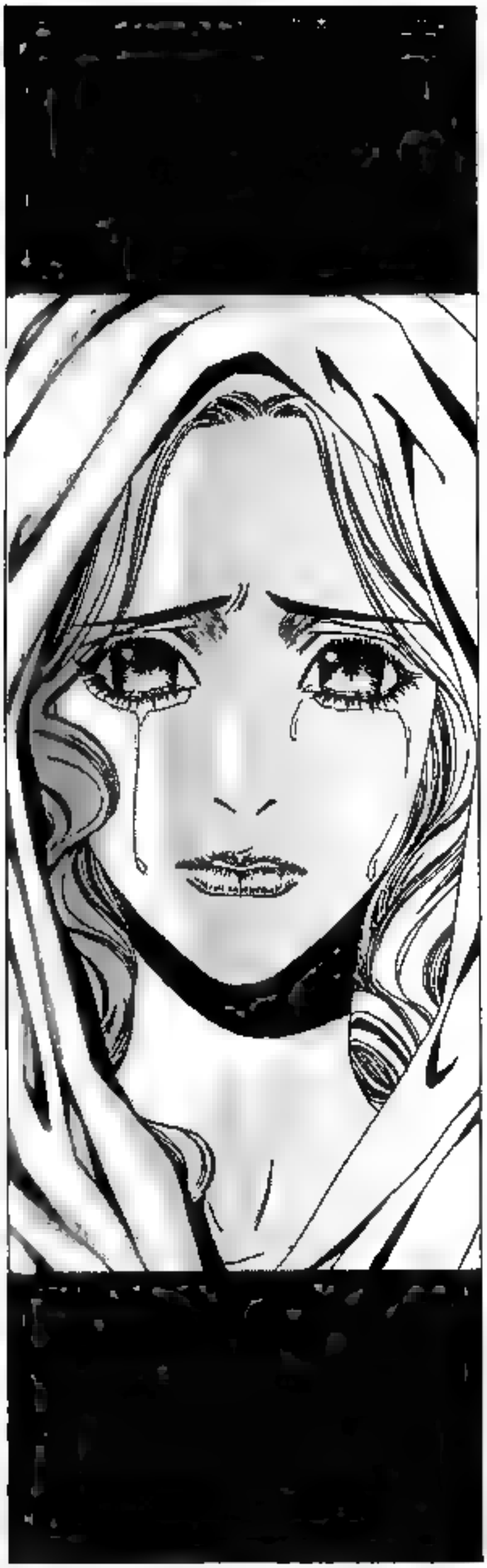
Site: http://evilflowersproject.50webs.com/index.html

FOUR OF SWORDS:
Disgrace, disgust, troublesome relationship.

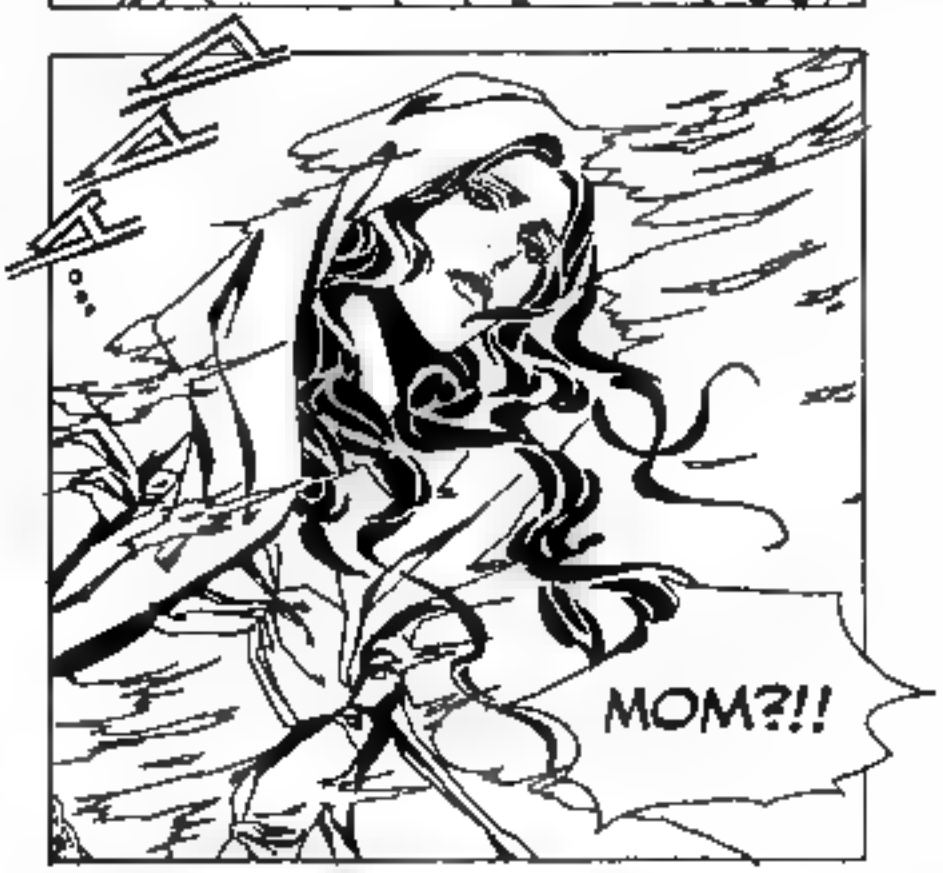
EIGHT OF WANDS:
Bad news, catastrophe, betrayal.

JUDGMENT:
Resumption, birth, recharging of energy, examination of the conscience.





MOM, WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?


MOM?!!

MOM...

...WE CAN MEET AGAIN SOMEDAY, WHEN THIS JOURNEY OF MINE COMES TO AN END, RIGHT?

BUT WHAT DO THE CARDS THAT PAMELA'S MOM REVEALED MEAN?

ONCE YOU'VE ARRIVED AT PANDEMONIUM, YOU'LL KNOW.

WE MUST CROSS THAT RIVER TO GET TO PANDEMON UM.

AND WE CAN CROSS IT BY PAYING CHARON THE BOATMAN.

HERE HE COMES NOW.

KEH KEH KEH...WELL NOW, WHO'S THIS? MASTER NEBIROS, THE ENEMY OF THE DEVIL ARMY, AND HIS LOVER, EH?

IT MUST BE YOU... THE ONE WHO HAS HELL STEWING IN GOSSIP. HOO HOO HOO...

HM? WHAT GOSSIP?

SHUT YOUR TRAP AND TAKE US ACROSS.

AND WHAT WILL YOU GIVE ME AS PAYMENT ?

AAAUGGH!!

HERE I WILL RETURN THESE TO YOU AS PAYMENT FOR GETTING US ACROSS THE RIVER

HOW AM I TO
FIGHT THIS BEAST
WITHOUT SEEING
WHAT'S IN FRONT
OF ME!!!

UM... ARE YOU SURE HIS EYES... ARE OKAY?

THAT GEEZER IS AN ASSEMBLED MAN.

EVERY PART OF HIS BODY CAN BE DISMANTLED AND PUT BACK TOGETHER AGAIN.

UH-HUH...

HM...? SOMETHING'S WRONG.

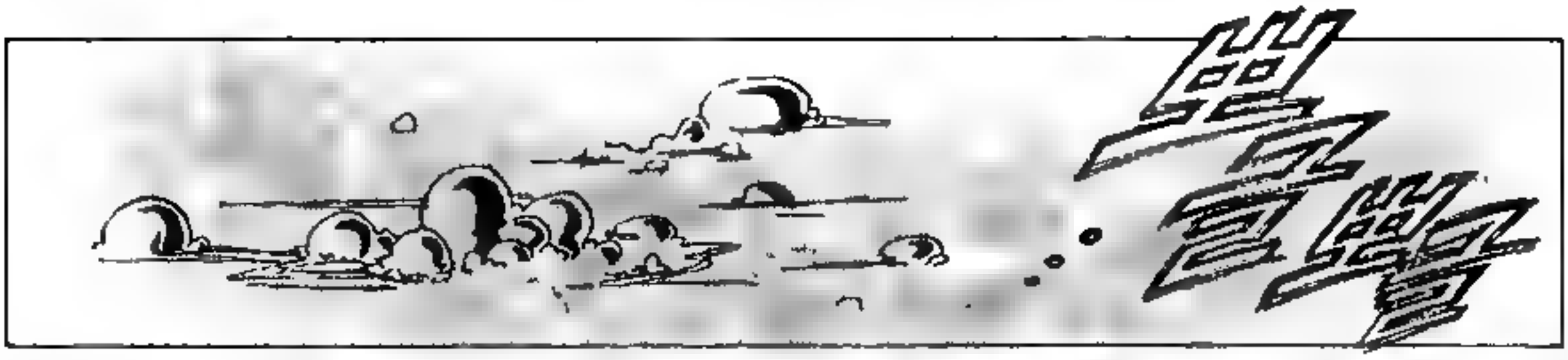
THERE ARE NO WAVES IN ACHERON...

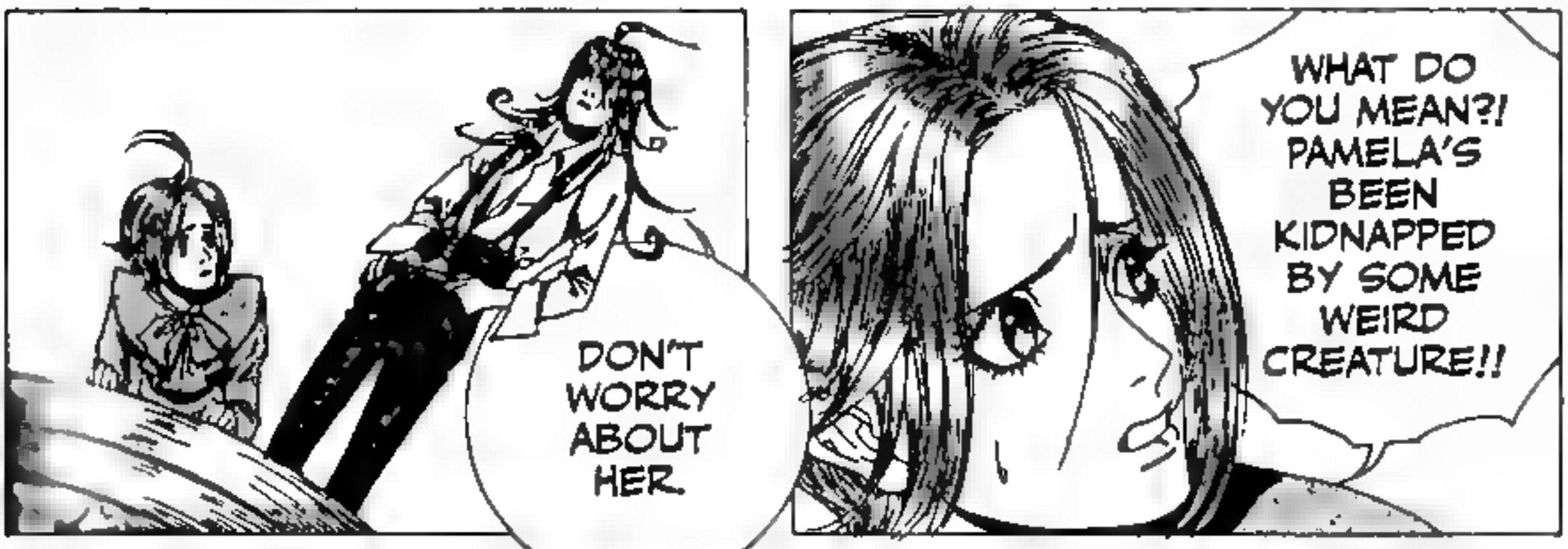
EL HOYO

UUUUURGH!

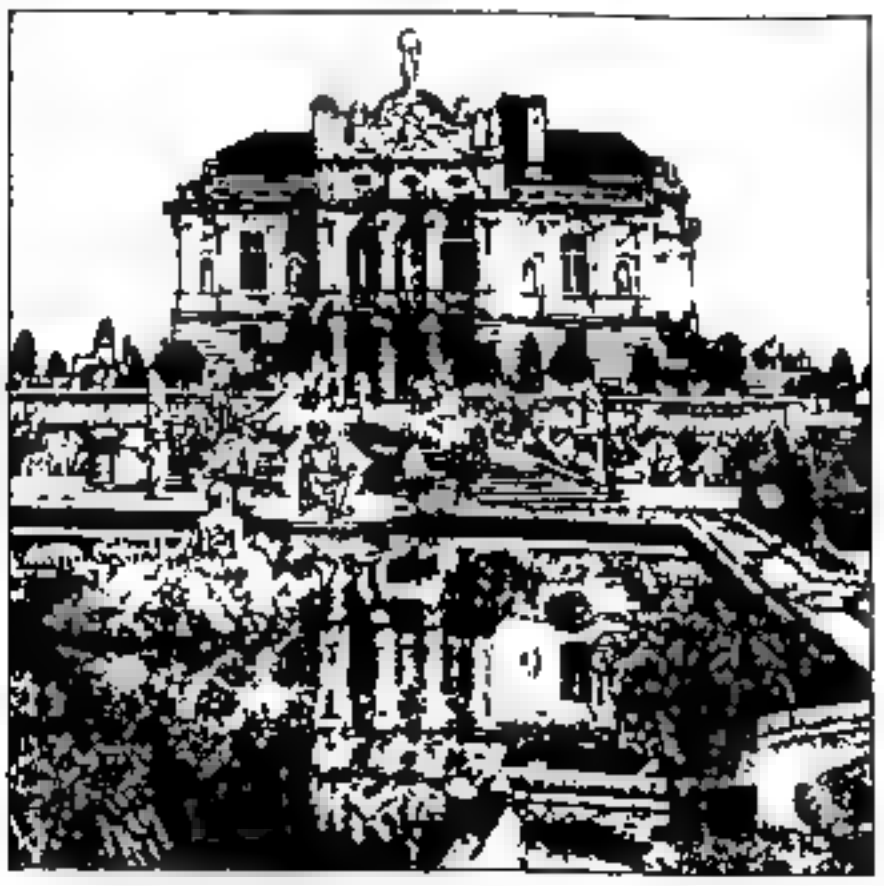
PAMELA!!

NEBIROS, DO SOMETHING!!




DON'T WORRY ABOUT HER.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?! PAMELA'S BEEN KIDNAPPED BY SOME WEIRD CREATURE!!

DON'T WORRY.
EVERYTHING'S HAPPENING AS IT SHOULD.



PUHAAA!!

COUGH COUGH COUGH...

HM... SO HER HIGHNESS HAS FINALLY ARRIVED.

HUFF.

WELCOME, BELIAL'S PRINCESS.

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

REJA'S
PRINCESS ?

WHOA!!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU? ARE YOU A CAMBOT'S WIFE?

AH...YOU'RE QUITE THE FEISTY ONE. I CAN SEE WHY BELIAL'S FALLEN FOR YOU.

THAT GIRL, THERE--ADORN HER WITH TH NGS TO MAKE HER BEAUTIFUL.
I'M NVITING HER TO DINNER.

LET ME GO!!
LET ME GO, I SAID!!

HERE. I HAVEN'T PREPARED MUCH, BUT PLEASE, EAT.

AND WHY THE HELL SHOULD I HAVE DINNER WITH *YOU?*

PAMELA, WHY DO YOU CARE ABOUT *TIME* WHEN YOU'RE IMMORTAL?

BESIDES, YOU CAN'T GET TO PANDEMONIUM WITHOUT GOING THROUGH MY CASTLE FIRST.

I WAS ON MY WAY TO SEE BELIAL, YOU KNOW. I DON'T WANT TO WASTE MY TIME ON SUCH FRIVOLOUS THINGS.

AH, I FORGOT TO INTRODUCE MYSELF.

MY NAME IS HARLEQUIN.

I'M THE DEVIL WHO PUTS LIFE BACK INTO THIS BORING OLD PLACE.

I'M INTRIGUED BY YOU, PAMELA.

I KNOW I SHOULD BE HANDING YOU OFF TO BELIAL RIGHT AWAY...

...BUT I CAN'T HELP BUT BE N-TRIGUED BY THE WOMAN WHO'S CAPTIVATED THAT DAMNABLE BELIAL.

YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG. HE LIKES TO TOY WITH ME...

...AND IT'S NOT HOW YOU THINK.

THAT'S WHAT *YOU* THINK.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?! JUST TAKE ME TO BELIAL ALREADY!

ACK!!!

DON'T TREAT ME LIKE ONE OF BEJIAL'S CRONIES!

WHETHER I LET YOU GO OR NOT IS COMPLETELY UP TO ME!

HM, YOU'RE ACTUALLY QUITE FEMININE.

IF YOU WON'T TAKE ME THERE, I'LL JUST GO ON MY OWN.

AARGH!

Ptoo!

BITCH!

YOU--A HUMAN-- *DARE* DO THAT TO *ME?!!*

UUUGH!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?! STOP IT!!

THE QUESTION IS, HOW DARE *YOU*--A MERE SERVANT--DO THIS?

GET YOUR HANDS OFF HER.

Y-YOU'RE...?!!

...B-BELUS...

IT'S NOT AN ILLUSION...

...IS IT REALLY YOU? REALLY...?

THE SCAR YOU GAVE ME STILL HURTS.

OH GOD...

WHAT HAPPENED...

...HOW HE CAME HERE PERFECTLY HEALTHY--I COULDN'T ASK HIM.

THE ONLY IMPORTANT THING WAS THAT I WAS BEING TOUCHED, AND THAT HE WAS WITH ME...

I DON'T KNOW WHEN I DEVELOPED THESE FEELINGS

IF THERE IS A FUTURE ACE ONE I HAVE NOT CHOSEN

THE FACT THAT AT THIS TIME... AT THIS PLACE...

...WE EXIST TOGETHER IS THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS....

DON'T...
LET GO...

I WON'T HIT YOU SO...

...EVER.

Illustration from Golden Tarot of Klimt

MEANING OF THE CARD: Drastic changes, new birth, end or beginning of an activity. Fear, the unknown, emotional vacuum, unexpected events.

YOU'RE UP?

WHAT'S THIS?

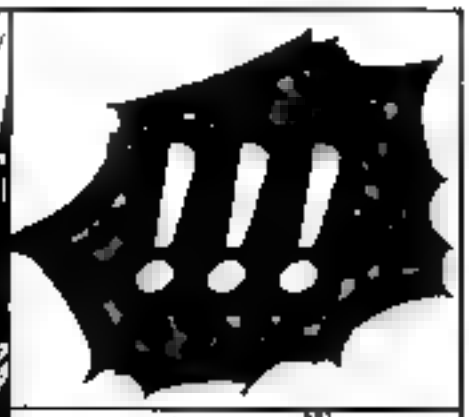
I PREPARED IT FOR YOU. I WAS TOLD THAT ON DAYS LIKE THIS, MEN PREPARE BREAKFAST FOR WOMEN.

MMM... PRETTY GOOD.

WAS LAST NIGHT... AS GOOD AS THIS MEAL?

HOO HOO...I PREPARED SOMETHING ELSE BESIDES BREAKFAST.

WHAT IS IT?



WHY SO SURPRISED? THE MAIN DISH HAS YET TO BE SERVED...

BWAARF!!

IF THIS... IF THIS IS A JOKE, CUT IT OUT!

DOES IT LOOKING LIKE I'M JOKING?

WHAT THE—?!

I THINK IT'S TIME TO END OUR CONTRACT, PAMELA.

WHERE IS BELIAL'S NECKLACE?

I'VE GOT IT, OF COURSE.

HMPH! I WANTED TO PARTY WITH PAMELA, BUT HERE'S AN INTRUDER!

I HAVE NO INTEREST IN BUTTING IN, SO CONTINUE, PLEASE. I JUST WANT TO WATCH.

SOUL
WHAT ARE THEY YAPPING ABOUT?
JUST WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

HA HA HA. PAMELA, WHY ARE YOU MAKING SUCH A FACE?

WHAT? ISN'T THIS FUN?

BE CALM, PAMELA. CALM...

THAT THERE...IS THAT ASH'S TRUE FORM? WHY IS T HERE?

MMM...YOU'VE ASKED THE WRONG QUESTION.

YOU HAVE TO ASK WHERE YOU ARE THAT'S MAKING YOU SEE ASH'S TRUE FORM.

OKAY...SO
WHERE AM I?

PANDEMONIUM.

WELCOME TO MY CASTLE, PAMELA.

YOUR... CASTLE...?

DON'T YOU REMEMBER?

THE FIRST TIME I MET YOU--NO, TO BE PRECISE, IT WASN'T THE VERY FIRST TIME, BUT WHATEVER, I TOLD YOU WHO I AM.

I AM THE SCION OF PANDEMONIUM, THE GREAT DUKE BELUS.

I HAD TOTALLY FORGOTTEN... HE SAID THAT.

TH-THEN...?

THAT'S RIGHT. BELJS IS ANOTHER NAME FOR BELIAL.

HUMANS CALL ME BY MANY DIFFERENT NAMES.

DID YOU JUST FIGURE IT OUT, PAMELA?

YOU ARE MY LOVE WHO ENTERTAINS ME THE MOST IN THIS WORLD...

FOURTEENTH CENTURY, SCOTLAND

DO YOU BELIEVE IN SALVATION? DOES THIS GOD YOU ALL BELIEVE IN EVEN EXIST?

IT'S JUST AN ATTRACTIVE PIECE OF FICTION CREATED BY THE STRONG TO BIND THE WEAK!!

SOLZ

flinch

THAT KID... MERELY A HUMAN, YET SHE SEES RIGHT THROUGH ME...

THE EVER-BORING DAYS OF PERPETUITY.

I HADN'T TASTED ANYTHING NOR FELT ANY SENSE OF FUN.

UNTIL...

I CAN SEE YOU.

YOU'RE NOT A HOLY MAN. YOU'RE DIRTY, VILE AND DISTORTED.

AND THEN YOU APPEARED.

IT WAS A FIRST. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME A HUMAN HAD EXCITED AND INTRIGUED ME.

TO ME, YOU'RE A VERY MPORTANT ENTITY. IT'S BEEN FUN, PAME_A.

AND THANKS TO YOU, I RECOVERED MY NECK_ACE, TOO.

IT HURTS...

MY WHOLE BODY...MY HEART...

IT'S AS THOUGH I'M BEING CHOPPED UP WITH A KNIFE AND PICKLED IN SALT...

SO THEN, MEETING ASH AND ME BECOMING IMMORTAL WAS ALL...

I PREFER LONG-RUNNING DRAMAS TO SHORT MOVIES.

HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS? YOU SEE, I LIKE TO ENJOY THINGS SLOWLY...OVER LONG PERIODS OF TIME.

SO IT SIMPLY WOULDN'T DO FOR THE MAIN CHARACTER TO DIE IMMEDIATELY.

THAT'S IT? THAT'S THE ONLY REASON YOU'VE DONE THIS TO ME?

...I AM A DEVIL AFTER ALL...

ONE CAN'T CHANGE HIS TRUE NATURE.

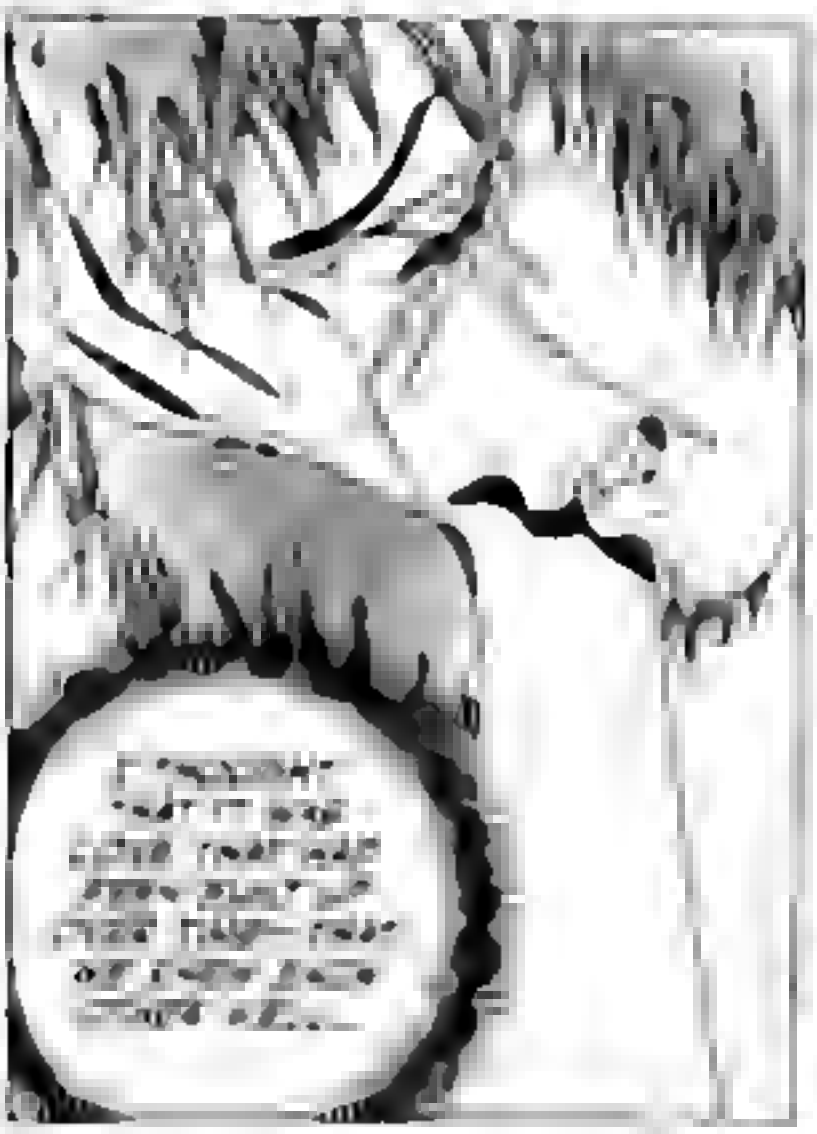
KE KE KE...

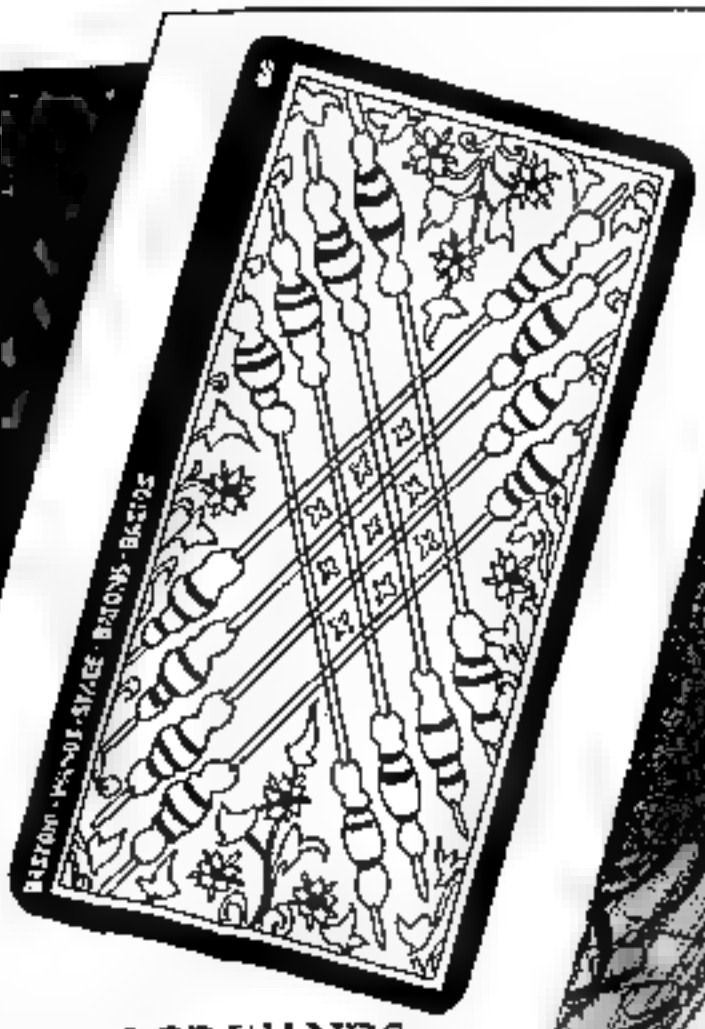
AH HA HA!

HA HA HA!

AH HA HA HA!

HA HA HA!





EIGHT OF WANDS:
Bad news, catastrophe, betrayal.

AFTER ASH TRANSFERRED HIS ROTTING LIFE OF IMMORTALITY TO ME...

...MY HEART HARDENED.

AND NOW THE HOLE OF BETRAYAL HAS BEEN PUNCHED INTO MY HEART...

JUDGMENT: Resumption, birth, recharging of energy, examination of the conscience.

NOW...SINCE WE'VE HAD THE MAIN COURSE, WHAT'S FOR DESSERT?

MOM...DO YOU THINK I HAVE THE STRENGTH WITHIN ME TO RISE AGAIN?

YOU MEAN YOU'RE READY?!

ASH...?

HERE...YOU MUST FULFILL THE CONTRACT, OF COURSE.

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THIS?

THE LAST GEM ON THE NECKLACE. YOU HAVE TO GIVE IT TO ME.

IF YOU KILL THE PHYSICAL BODY OF ASH, YOU CAN ACQUIRE THE GEM.

WHY DO I HAVE TO DO THAT? ASH IS ALREADY IN YOUR HANDS.

AH...DIDN'T YOU READ THE CONTRACT?

IN ORDER FOR YOU TO DIE LIKE A NORMAL HUMAN, YOU MUST COLLECT ALL THE GEMS IN MY NECKLACE.

DON'T YOU WANT TO MEET YOUR MOTHER IN HEAVEN?

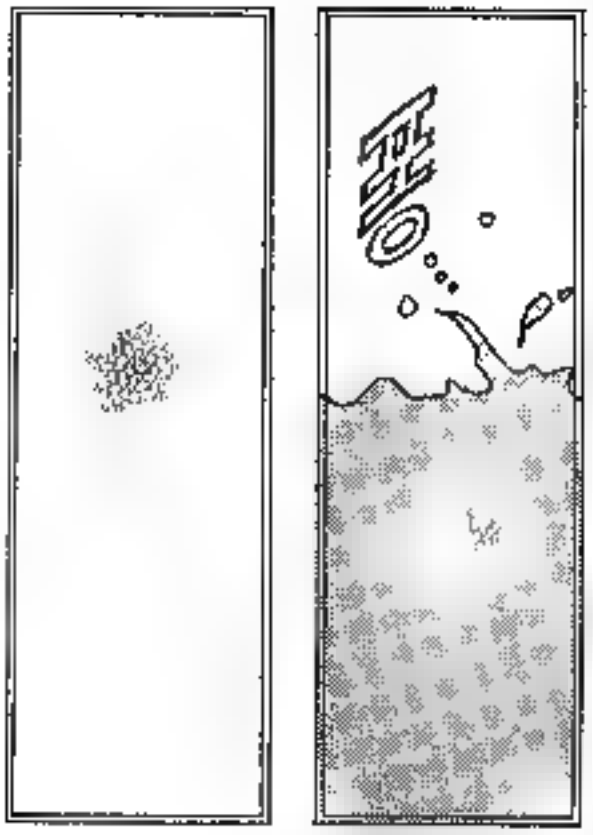
I HAVE ONE MORE SHOCKING THING TO REVEAL...

I DON'T THINK ANYTHING COULD SHOCK ME AT THIS POINT.

YOU REALLY DON'T THINK SO?

I KNOW THIS ALREADY.

YOU HAVE TO KEEP WATCHING UNTIL THE END.



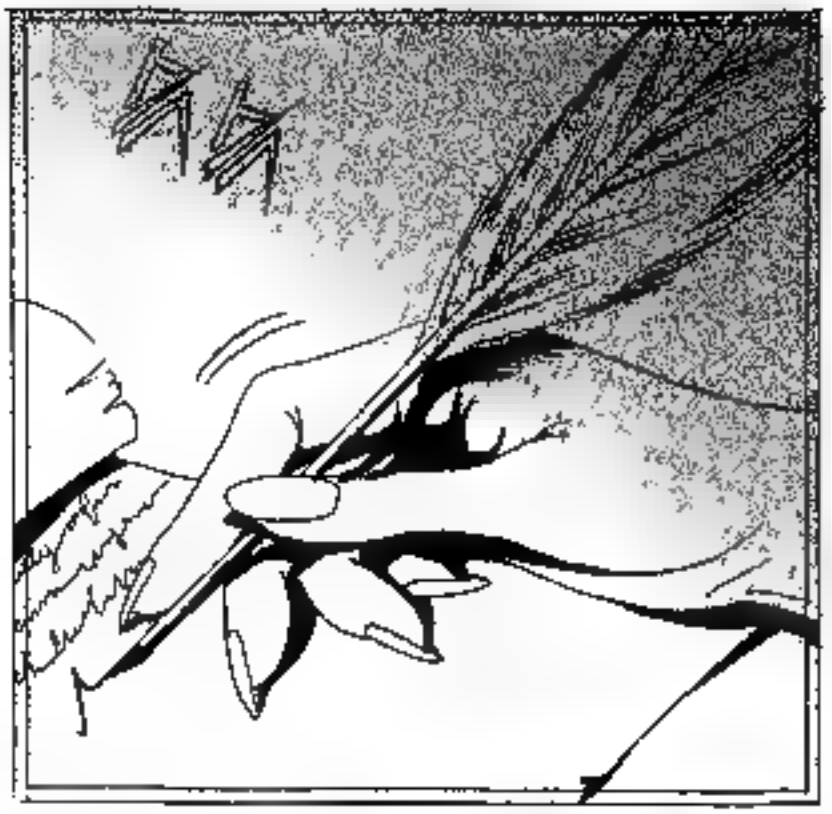
THAT LAST ONE..?

IT'S ASH'S SOUL.

...?

IN OTHER WORDS, THE ASH YOU HAVE TO KILL NOW IS NOT THE DOLL AS ALECTO SAID. THIS IS THE REAL ASH.

ALTHOJGH HE WON'T HAVE HIS MEMORY.



Contract

IS THIS WHEN THEY SAY, "THERE'S SOMEONE FLYING WHEN YOU'RE RUNNING"...?

Heh heh

Keh keh keh

IT'S LIKE ASH FELL FOR HIS OWN CLEVER TRICK.

IT'S BEEN FUN THANKS TO YOU TWO.

MMMPH...

NOW. .DON'T DELAY. YOU MUST FULFILL THE TERMS OF THE CONTRACT.

AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, YOU CAN HAVE REVENGE ON THE ONE WHO DESTROYED YOUR LIFE.

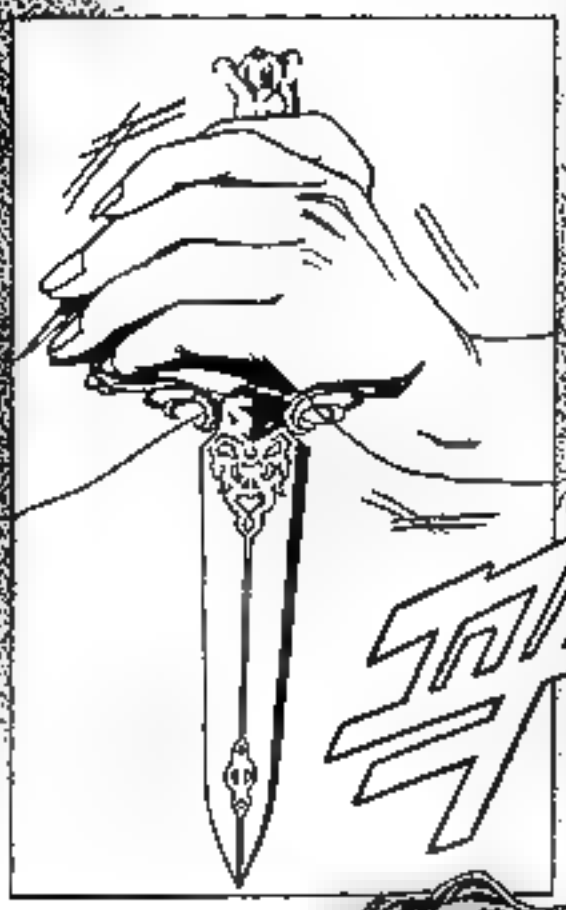
MMRPH...

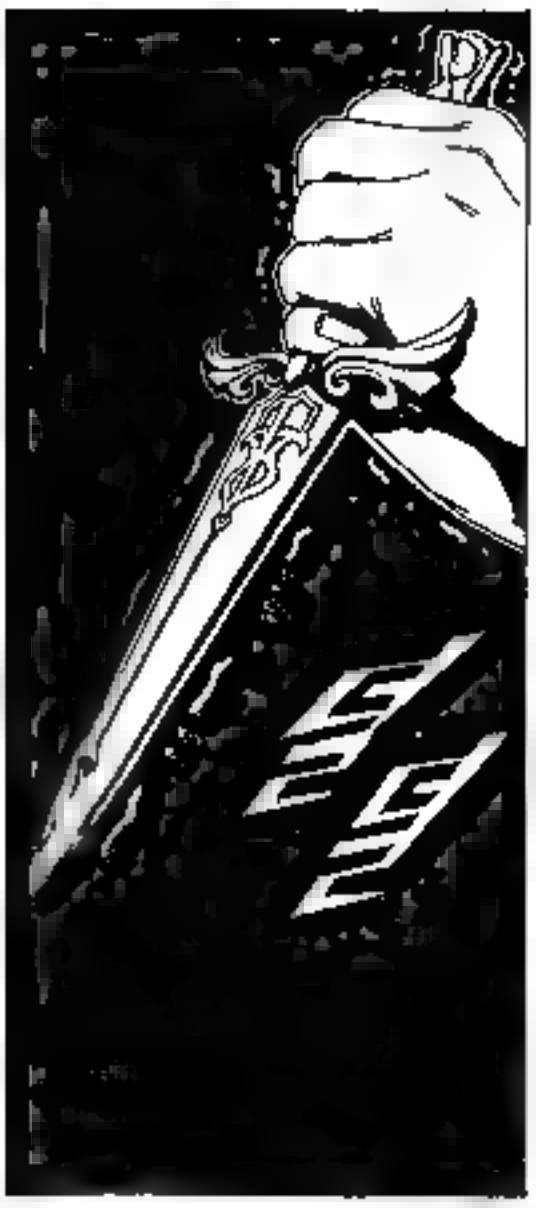
HOO HOO HOO...

DAMN... THIS IS *SO* MESSED UP.

UNLESS YOU'RE OF HEAVEN...

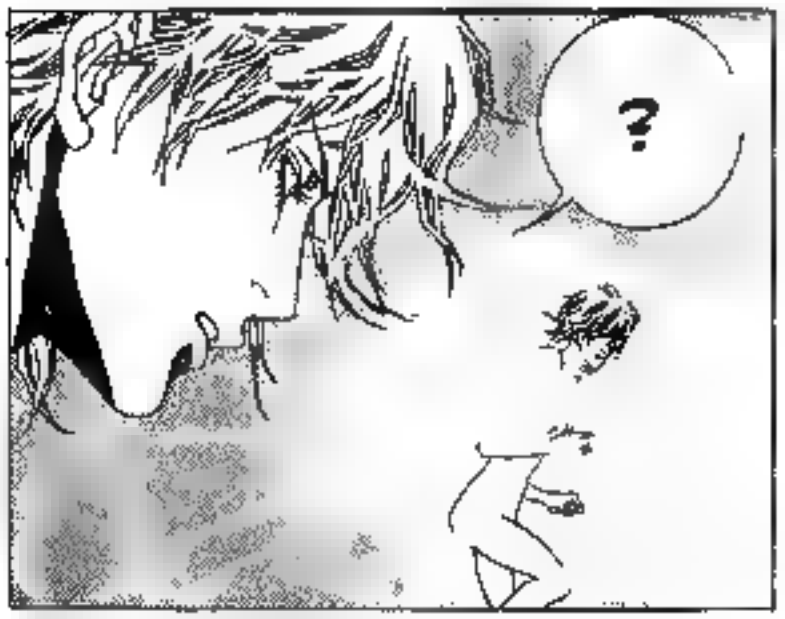
...THOSE OF US WHO ROLL AROUND ON EARTH AND IN HELL ALL HAVE MESSED UP LIVES.



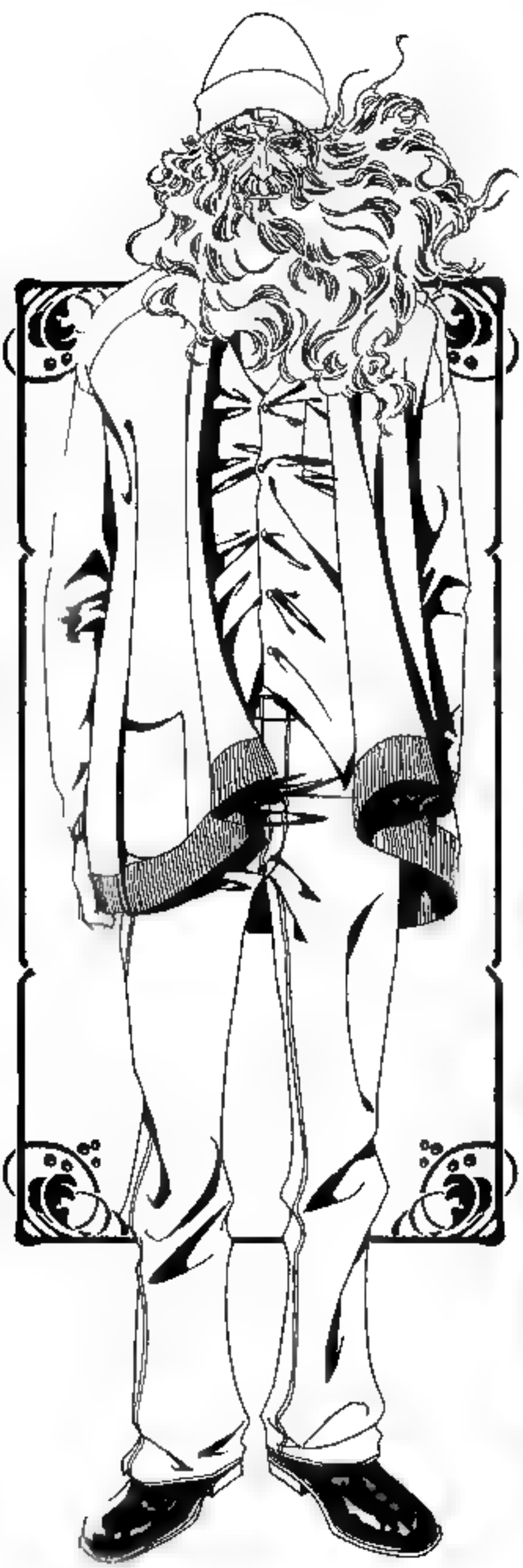


HA HA HA
HA...

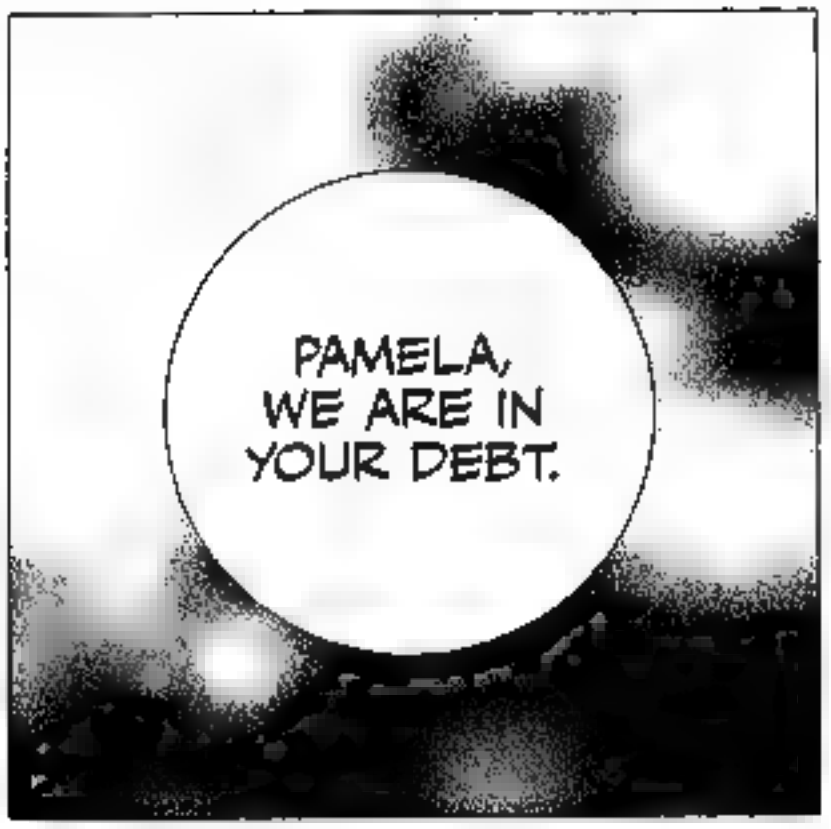
HA HA HA
HA...



...?



YOU'RE...?


PAMELA,
WE ARE IN
YOUR DEBT.

NOW IT'S OUR TURN TO HELP YOU.

YOU'RE ALL...?

THAT PIE...

...WAS REALLY DELICIOUS, PAMELA.

!!

NO!!

GOD

KRAAAGH!!

Illustration from Golden Tarot of Klimt

MEANING OF THE CARD: Fortune, new love, start of activity Enemies that return, fears, end of a friendship or a love affair.

SIXTY YEARS LATER, LONDON

HMM...THIS CARD SHOWS HOW PEOPLE INFLUENCE ONE ANOTHER.

YOUR RELATIONSHIP IS CLEARLY A PASSIONATE ONE.

VII

THE CHARIOT

CAFE TARO

CENTRAL

Spring 1926

LET'S SEE...

YOU SHOULD HURRY AND GET MARRIED.

PAMELA, YOU HAVE ANOTHER VISITOR.

IS HE IN A LOT OF PA.N?
IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S SICK OR ANYTHING...
I GUESS THIS MEANS A LOT OF YEARS HAVE PASSED.

TIME MEANS NOTHING TO US, THOUGH. DON'T YOU AGREE?

UH-HUH... YES. THAT TOOK PLACE 60 YEARS AGO, BUT IT FEELS LIKE YESTERDAY.

AHH...YOU CAME FOR ME. PAMELA...

OF COURSE I CAME. WHEN YOU CALL, I COME RUNNING, AARON. IT'S ONLY NATURAL.

DO YOU... STILL LIKE COCOA?

NO. I'M SO USED TO YOU MAKING IT FOR ME, I DON'T BOTHER TO DRINK IT.

NO ONE MAKES IT L KE YOU DO, ANYWAY.

PAMELA, THEY SAY THAT WHEN YOU BURY THE ONE YOU HATE IN YOUR HEART...

...YOU BEGIN TO RESEMBLE THE ONE YOU SO HATE.

IT'S LIKE HOW CHILDREN, DESPITE THEIR VOWS TO BE NOTHING LIKE THEIR PARENTS, USUALLY END UP JUST LIKE THEM ANYWAY.

IT WAS ONLY 80 YEARS, BUT THE EXPERIENCE OF RUNNING THROUGH A FULL LIFE CYCLE...

...WAS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM MERELY LIVING A LONG LIFE.

THEY SAY TO FORGIVE IS TO RID YOUR MIND OF REVENGE.

DO YOU WANT REVENGE, PAMELA?

EVEN IF I DID, THERE'S NO WAY I WOULD DO SOMETHING SO STUPID.

THEN TO FORGIVE IS NOT FOR ANYONE'S BENEFIT BUT YOUR OWN, RIGHT?

RATHER THAN TORTURING YOURSELF WITH IMPOSSIBLE DREAMS OF REVENGE, FOCUS ON LIVING A HAPPY LIFE.

YOU HAVE SUFFERED ENOUGH ALREADY.

PAMELA, WOULD YOU GIVE ME A HUG?

I'M GETTING TIRED...

I THINK I SHOULD SLEEP NOW...

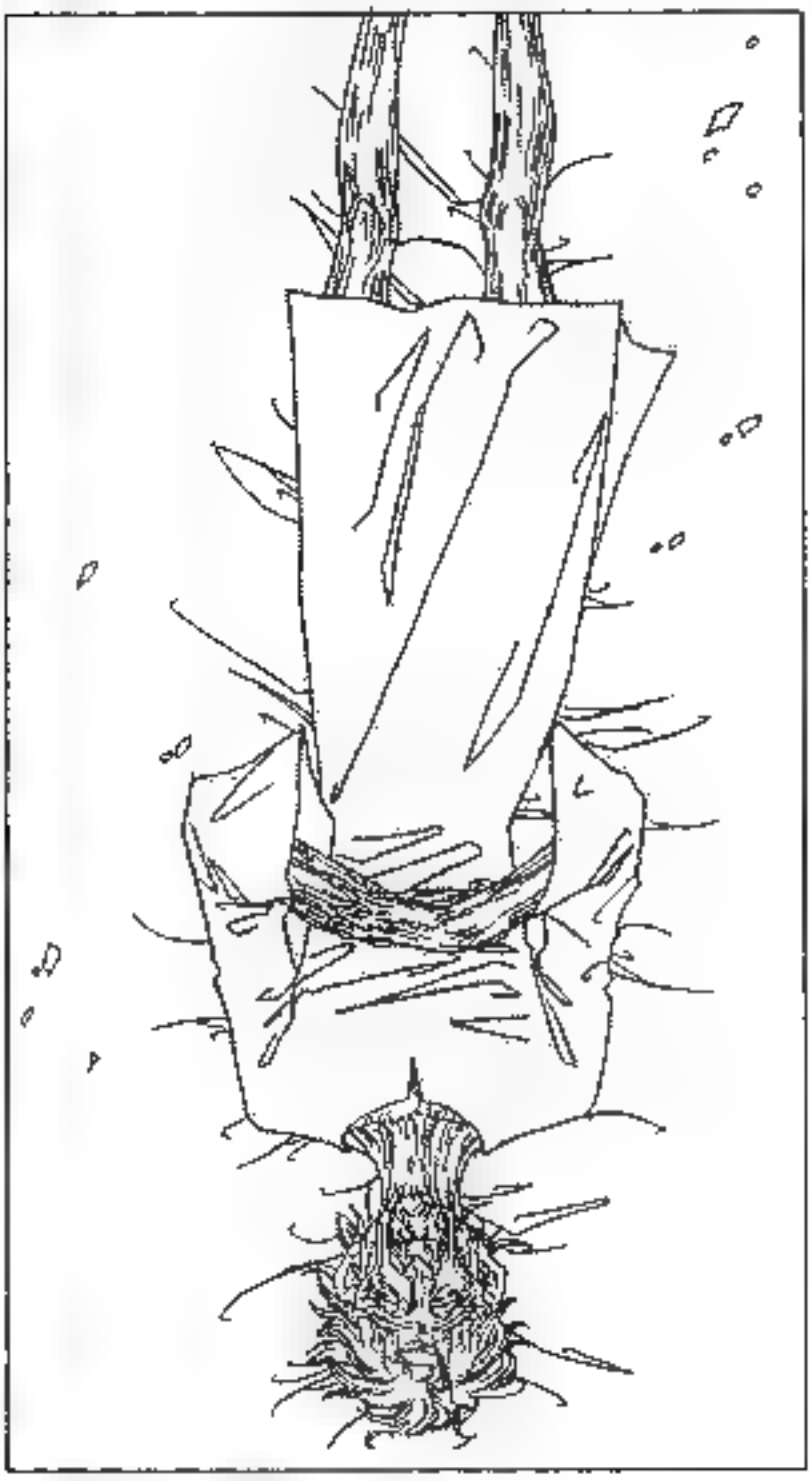
GOODBYE, AARON.

GOODBYE, PAMELA.

GOODBYE, NEBIROS.

WILL WE MEET AGAIN IN HEAVEN?

THE DAY THAT MY SIN IS FORGIVEN... WE WILL MEET AGAIN.



W LL YOU WAIT FOR ME?

TOLL TOLL

AARON
1928~2008

I'VE LIVED A LONG TIME AND EXPERIENCED THIS MANY TIMES, BUT...

...I STILL CAN'T GET USED TO THIS DEATH THING.

I'M CURIOUS ABOUT SOMETHING.

YOU SEARCHED FOR HIM SO DESPERATELY, AND LOVED HIM SO MUCH...

...SO WHY DID YOU LEAVE HIM AFTER YOU FINALLY FOUND HIM?

I... THOUGHT HE HAD BETRAYED ME AND LEFT ME FOR BELIAL.

SO...I THOUGHT I HAD BEEN BETRAYED ONCE AGAIN.

SUCH NARROW-MINDED LOVE.

ONE WITHOUT TRUST OR CONSIDERATION...

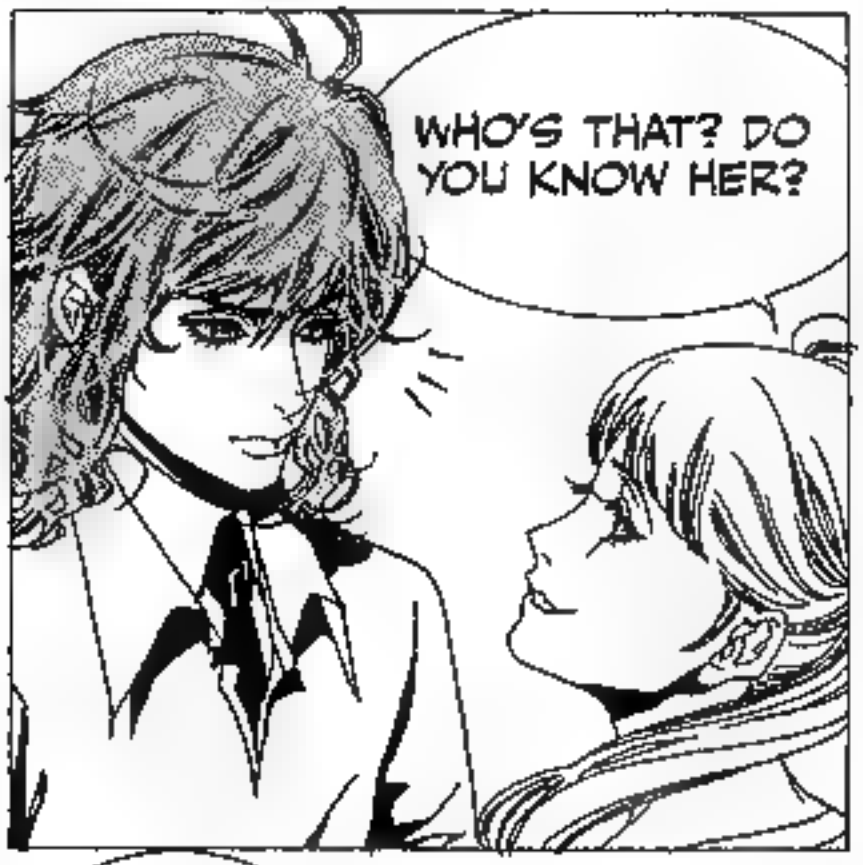
DON'T YOU THINK THERE'S VALUE IN LOVE ALONE, THOUGH, REGARDLESS OF ITS IMPERFECTIONS?

IS THERE ANYONE WHO *CAN* LOVE PERFECTLY? ONLY GOD IS CAPABLE OF SUCH A FEAT.

I LOVED IN MY OWN, TWISTED WAY AARON UNDERSTOOD THAT.

HE UNDERSTOOD, HUH...?

UCLA
YOU REALLY ATE FROG EGGS? ARE YOU CRAZY?!
HA HA HA. MY BIOLOGY TEACHER BET ME I WOULDN'T EAT THEM--NOW HE HAS TO GIVE ME AN A+!


WHO'S THAT? DO YOU KNOW HER?

HMM? NO, I DON'T KNOW WHO SHE IS.

WHY...ARE YOU HERE...?

IT'S INTERESTING TO SEE THE ALMIGHTY BELIAL LIKE THIS.

HAVE YOU COME ONLY TO MOCK ME?

NO. YOU'VE BEEN ANXIOUS ABOJT SOMETH NG-- I'M HERE TO TELL YOL WHY.

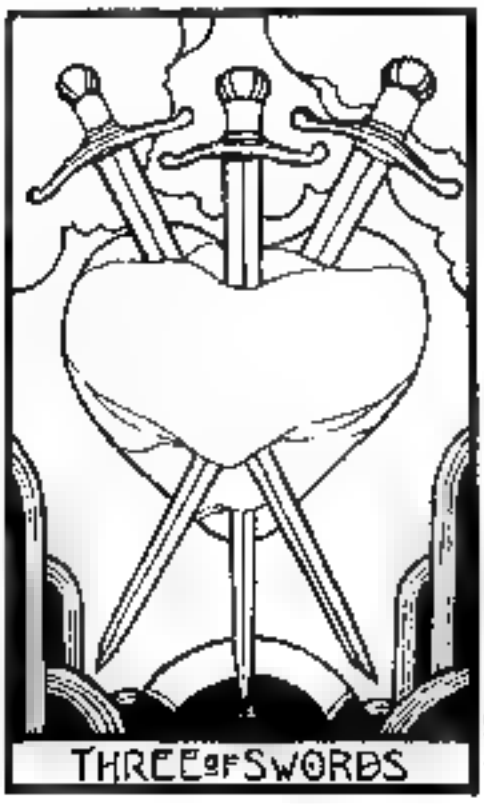
I'VE BEEN ANXIOUS ABOUT SOMETHING?

AREN'T YOL CUR OUS WHY I HAVEN'T TAKEN MY REVENGE ON YOU? WHY I'VE OPTED TO S MPLY WATCH FROM THE SIDELINES?

YOU THINK TOO LITTLE OF WHAT THEY CALL "LOVE."

I'M SURE YOU THOUGHT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH PAMELA WAS JUST A FUN LITTLE GAME.

THREE OF SWORDS:
Rupture, separation, absence, delay.



BUT YOU NEVER KNEW YOU WERE PLUNGING SWORDS INTO YOUR OWN HEART.

WATCHING SUCH A PATHETIC SCENE WAS PLENTY. I DIDN'T NEED TO TAKE REVENGE.

HA HA HA! ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY I'M IN *LOVE* WITH PAMELA? THAT I'M HEARTBROKEN BECAUSE WE'VE PARTED?!

I WAS WRONG, THEN?

THIS IS ALL BECAUSE YOU'VE LOST THE NECKLACE?

OR BECAUSE GOD GOT IN YOUR WAY?

BELIAL, WE'RE BROTHERS.

I'LL GET GOING NOW..

LIE TO SOMEONE WHO'LL ACTUALLY BELIEVE YOU.

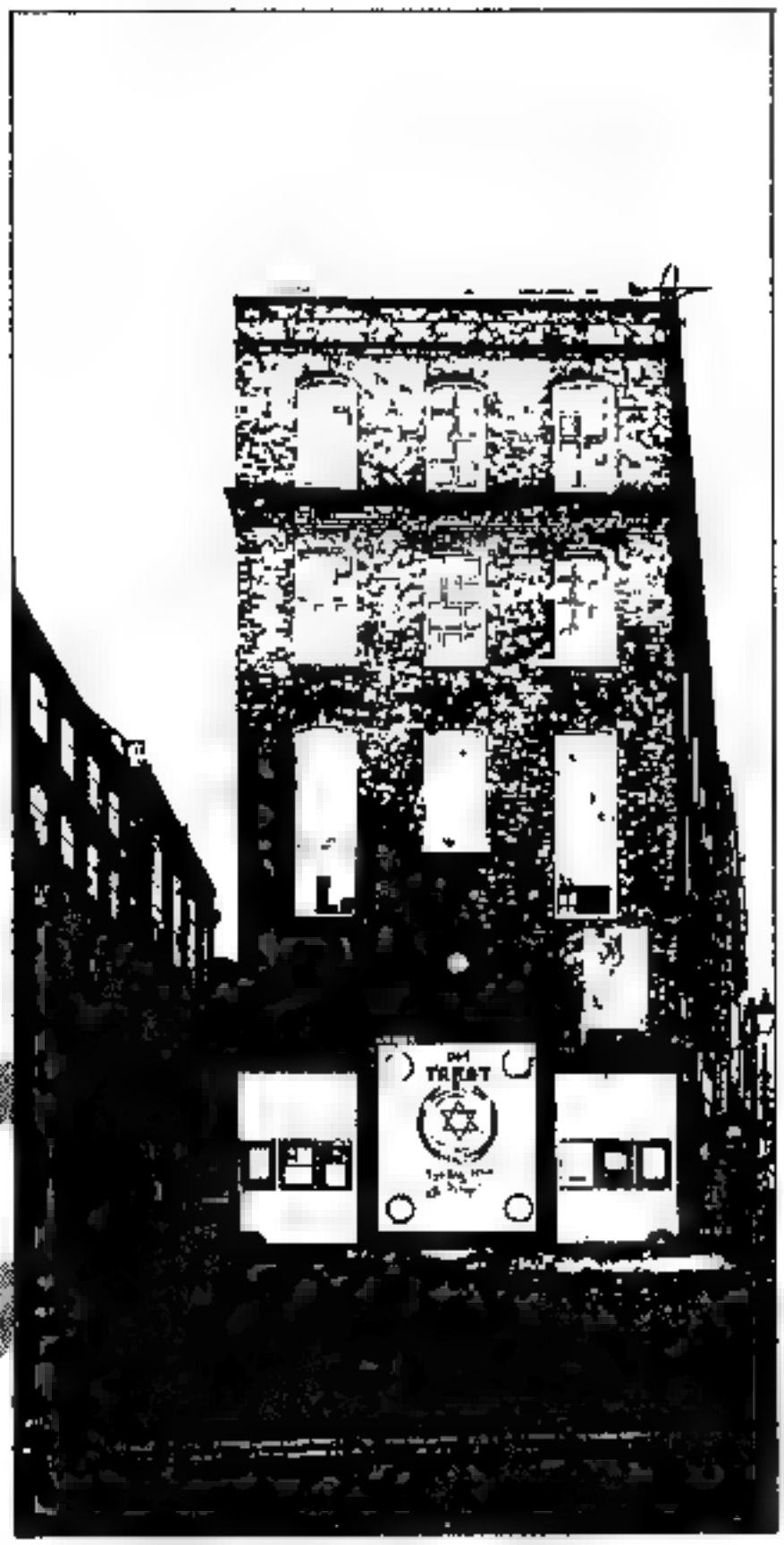
THIS HANDKERCHIEF IS SOAKED WITH PAMELA'S TEARS. IT'S MY GIFT TO YOU.

URGH!!

SNIFF...

SNIFF
SNIFF...

AAAARRRGH!!


TREAT

JUST LIKE I THOUGHT, IT DOESN'T TASTE THE SAME.

I'M SORRY, WE'RE CLOSING.

BUT...I HEARD YOU TAKE SPECIAL VISITORS AFTER MIDNIGHT.

ARE WE STILL PLAYING THIS GAME? I THOUGHT OUR CONTRACT HAD ENDED.

HOW ABOUT A NEW CONTRACT, THEN?

...?

GATHER THE SCATTERED ORBS OF THE NECKLACE AGAIN. THEN I'LL ALLOW YOU TO LIVE A NORMAL HUMAN LIFE.

SIGH...

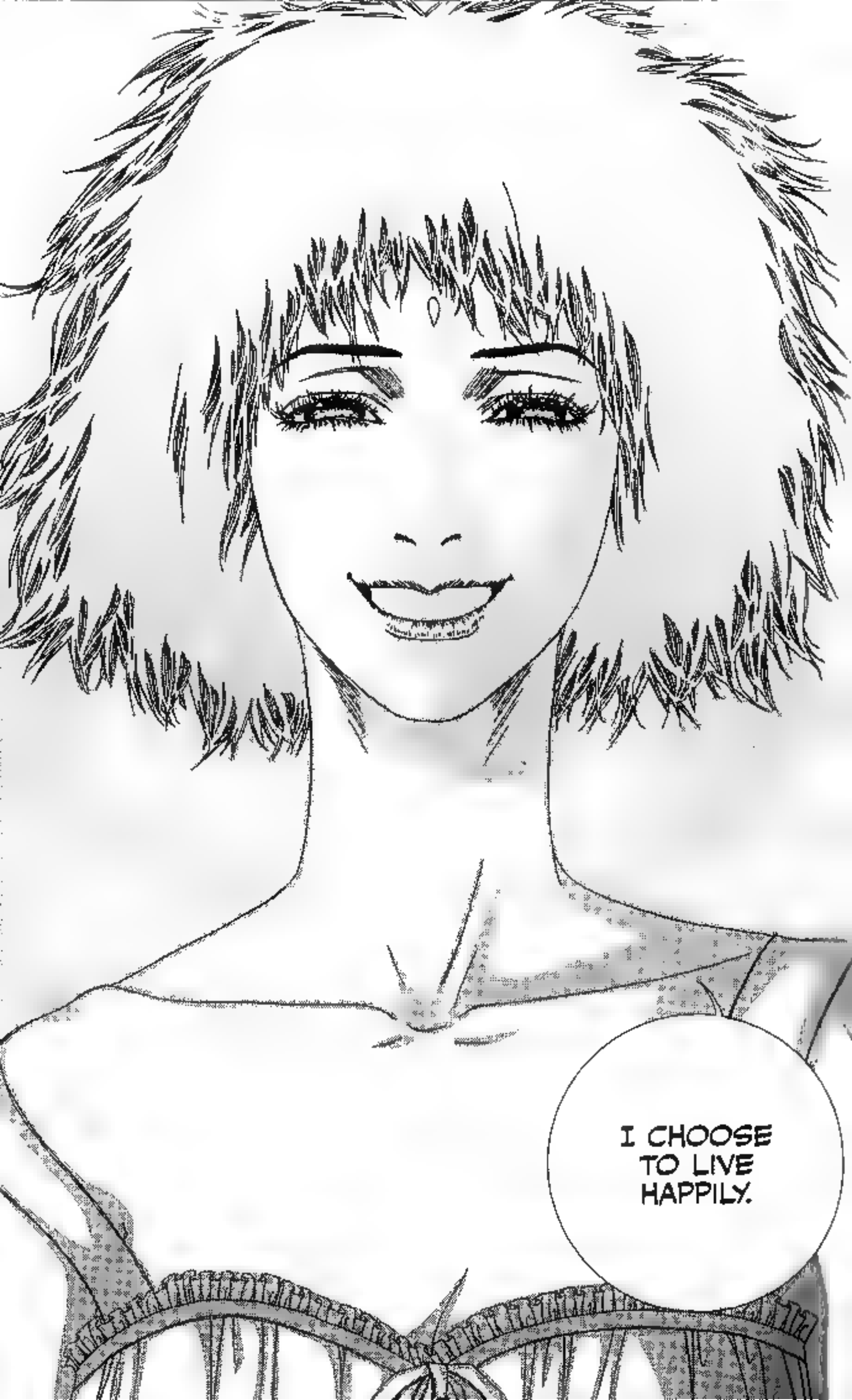
BELUS. .NO, BELIAL ..UST SAY YOU'RE A LONELY, IMMORTAL BEING AND YOU NEED A FRIEND.

THEN MAYBE I'LL CONSIDER T.

IT TOOK ME A LONG TIME TO ACCEPT THIS ABNORMAL LIFE OF MINE...

...BUT GOING THROUGH SO MUCH MADE ME REALIZE THAT IT'S NOT HOW LONG ONE LIVES THAT'S IMPORTANT...

...IT'S *HOW* ONE LIVES.


I CHOOSE TO LIVE HAPPILY.

After a long journey, *The Tarot Café* manga has finally ended. To a creator, a completed series is like a child. Thank you so much for your support over the years. I hope to see you all again in future projects.

- Sang-Sun Park

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The Tarot Café™

The thrilling conclusion to *The Tarot Café* saga! In order to save a dying Belus, Pamela must travel to Belial's dark castle and end their feud once and for all. Reaching the castle will require the help of some old friends, but waiting for her there will be something she never expected...

"Part fantasy, part horror and entirely intriguing... Park's artwork is stellar."
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